



Committee: House Health and Government Operations Committee
Bill Number: House Bill 245
Title: Program for Preventing HIV Infection for Rape Victims – Alterations and Repeal and Sunset
Hearing Date: February 9, 2022
Position: Support

The Maryland Nurses Association (MNA) supports *House Bill 245 – Program for Preventing HIV Infection for Rape Victims- Alterations and Repeal and Sunset*. This bill will continue the Program for Preventing HIV Infection for rape survivors by removing the sunset date and turning it into a permanent program.

MNA is the leading nursing organization to engage and support registered nurses and the profession to transform healthcare. People diagnosed with HIV are at greater risk for health conditions such as cardiovascular disease, kidney disease, diabetes, bone disease, liver disease, and cognitive disorders.¹ This bill would remove the \$750,000 cap paid to physicians, qualified healthcare professionals, and hospitals to support rape survivors. By removing this cap on funding and repealing the sunset date, nurses and other healthcare professionals will be able to continue to provide care for rape survivors against HIV infections.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony. We ask for a favorable report on this legislation. If we can provide any additional information, please contact Suhani Chitalia at schitalia@policypartners.net.

¹ <https://www.hiv.gov/hiv-basics/staying-in-hiv-care/other-related-health-issues/other-health-issues-of-special-concern-for-people-living-with-hiv#:~:text=Over%20time%2C%20that%20takes%20a,and%20some%20types%20of%20cancer.>